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MAY 18 2005

STATE PUBLICATIONS

NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

July 2001

Volume 18, Number 7

July was another month with a general lack of rain and above normal temperatures. Although some locations had above normal precipitation in spotty thundershower activity, the rainfall pattern was a hodgepodge with most areas having less than a tenth of an inch. The drought plagued the NW 1/3 of the Silver State was particularly dry and warm with high evaporation rates. In fact the National Drought Mitigation Center has declared that area is experiencing an Extreme Drought, bordering on the "Exceptional Drought". Southwestern and South Central Oregon are in the same fix, with water supplies running low and water demand at an all time high. Water users and water watchers are depressed. Added to that the National Weather Service Outlook for the August to October period calls for a continuation of the dry warm pattern. If next winter is also dry it could be disastrous for some areas. An example of conditions can be shown by looking at the 130 year long Reno precipitation pattern.

TEN DRIEST WATER YEARS IN RENO October to July Precipitation:

- 1) 2001: 2.04" or 30% of normal.
- 2) 1924: 2.57" or 38% of normal.
- 3) 1948: 3.06" or 45%.
- 4) 1885: 3.17" or 46%.
- 5) 1976: 3.26" or 48%.
- 6) 1883: 3.35" or 49%.
- 7) 1981: 3.45" or 51%.
- 8) 1966: 3.46" or 51%.
- 9) 1879: 3.54" or 52%.
- 10) 1991: 3.70" or 54%.

Normal precipitation for Reno, Oct-July: 6.82 Inches.

Water Storage Capacity as of July 31:

Lake Tahoe: 44% of capacity.

Truckee River: 66%

Carson River: 48%

Walker River: 35%

Lower Humboldt River: 13%

Areas that received some temporary relief this month were Goldfield with 2.30" or about five times normal for July, Shoshone 2.06", Great Basin National Park 1.99, Manhattan 1.60", Minden 1.54", Snowball Ranch 1.53" and Denio 1.49". The Goldfield total was the second wettest July in a 95-year long record. The wettest was 2.34" in 1952. The normal August total here is only .41", with 5.50" for the annual average.

The 2000-2001 Water Year is about to end leaving in its wake several locations that have had less than half of normal precipitation. For example Reno had 2.04" or only 30% of normal. Carson City only 33% for the first ten months of this water year, and Yerington 1.40" or 29% of normal, for the driest location in Nevada. In contrast, Lovelock, due to locally intense showers has had 98% of normal for one of the wettest locations in Nevada percentage wise.

Evaporation totals are well above average with for example 15.50" at Overton, 11.97" at Fallon (in an irrigated field), 11.65 at Honey Lake and 8.48" of pan evaporation at Minden.

The warmest temperatures were as usual in the South. For example, 121° at Overton, 118° at Overton Beach and 113° at the Las Vegas Airport. In the North, Rye Patch Reservoir had 107 and Marietta 104. In this warm month cold figures were hard to find, but some Northeast locations dropped to near thirty degrees. For example Boies Ranch had 31°.

NOTE: We are in the messy process of moving our office. We appreciate your patience in this manner.

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